

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract at page 16 with the following Abstract:

~~The present invention is a method for fabricating a~~ A magnetoresistive reader having a sensor, current contacts with low parasitic resistance and a top shield with substantially planar topology ~~[[.]]~~ is fabricated by first defining ~~First,~~ a stripe height back edge of the sensor. Next, ~~is defined, and second,~~ a reader width of the sensor is defined. The current contacts are deposited to a thickness such that a top surface of the current contacts is substantially level with a top surface of the sensor. The top shield is deposited over the sensor and the current contacts. Defining the stripe height back edge prior to the reader width results in current contacts with low parasitic resistance and inhibits the formation of magnetic domains in the top shield.